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In re Application of : DECISION ON PETITION
PYZIK, et al. :
U.S. Application No.: 10/551,727 :
PCT No.: PCT/US2004/010837 : UNDER 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3)
Int. Filing Date: 08 April 2004 :
Priority Date: 09 April 2003 : AND 37 CFR 1.78(a)(6)
Atty Docket No.: 62620A :
For: COMPOSITION FOR MAKING METAL :
MATRIX COMPOSITES :
:

This is a decision on the petition filed 12 March 2010 under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3) and (a)(6).

The petition under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3) is **DISMISSED as moot** as follows.

The instant petition seeks acceptance of a late claim for priority by way of an amendment to the specification, which reads: "This is a §371 application from PCT International Patent Application Number PCT International Patent Application Number PCT/US2004/010837 filed 08 April 2004, and claims benefit from U.S. Provisional Application Number 60/461,642, filed 09 April 2003, entire contents of both of which are hereby incorporated herein by reference."

As set forth in MPEP 1893.03(c), a national stage application filed under 35 U.S.C. § 371 may not claim benefit of the filing date of the international application of which it is the national stage since its filing date is the date of filing of that international application. *See also* MPEP 1893.03(b). In this regard, since the international application is not an earlier application (it has the same filing date as the national stage), a priority claim in the national stage of the international application is inappropriate. Accordingly, the petition under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3) is **DISMISSED as moot**.

A petition under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(6) is only applicable to those applications filed on or after November 29, 2000. Further, the petition is appropriate only after expiration of the period specified in 37 CFR 1.78(a)(5)(ii) and must be filed during the pendency of the nonprovisional application. In addition, the petition must be accompanied by:

- (1) the reference required by 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) and 37 CFR 1.78(a)(5)(I) to the prior-filed application, unless previously submitted;
- (2) the surcharge set forth in § 1.17(t); and

(3) a statement that the entire delay between the date the claim was due under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(5)(ii) and the date the claim was filed was unintentional. The Commissioner may require additional information where there is a question whether the delay was unintentional.

The instant pending nonprovisional application was filed after November 29, 2000, and the claim herein for the benefit of priority to the prior-filed provisional application is submitted after expiration of the period specified in 37 CFR 1.78(a)(5)(ii). Therefore, this is a proper petition under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(6).

The petition fails to comply with item (1) above.

The reference to add the prior-filed applications on page one following the first sentence of the specification is not acceptable as drafted since it improperly incorporates by reference the prior-filed applications. An incorporation by reference statement added after an application's filing date is not effective because no new matter can be added to an application after its filing date (see 35 U.S.C. § 132(a)). If an incorporation by reference statement is included in an amendment to the specification to add a benefit claim under 35 U.S.C. § 120 after the filing date of the application, the amendment would not be proper. When a benefit claim under 35 U.S.C. § 120 is submitted after the filing of an application, the reference to the prior application cannot include an incorporation by reference statement of the prior application. *See Dart Industries v. Banner*, 636 F.2d 684, 207 USPQ 273 (C.A.D.C. 1980). *Note* MPEP §§ 201.06(c) and 608.04(b).

Before the petition under 37 CFR § 1.78(a)(6) can be granted, a renewed petition and either an Application Data Sheet (37 CFR 1.76(a)(5)) or a proper amendment (complying with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.121) to correct the above matters are required.

Any further correspondence with respect to this matter may be filed electronically via EFS-Web selecting the document description "Petition for review and processing by the PCT Legal Office" or by mail addressed to Mail Stop PCT, Commissioner for Patents, Office of PCT Legal Administration, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450, with the contents of the letter marked to the attention of the Office of PCT Legal Administration.

Any questions concerning this matter may be directed to Derek A. Putonen at (571) 272-3294.



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